## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled)

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16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for accelerating database query processing, comprising:

determining during execution of a particular query whether continued execution of a particular query execution plan is worthwhile by

calculating the amount of query execution remaining;

placing a number of checkpoints in the particular query execution plan;

optimization parameter values at a given checkpoint to determine the significance of parameter estimation errors, by pushing the <u>given</u> checkpoint below a materialization point for subsequent execution, transferring each row to its parent operator in a pipelined manner, storing identifiers of all rows returned on a side table using an INSERT plan operator just below the <u>a</u> return operator, then compensating for returned row results by executing an anti join between the side table and a new result stream:

execution remains and significant parameter estimation errors have occurred; and
if continued execution is not worthwhile, then suspending query execution, re-optimizing the

particular query, and restarting query execution with a re-optimized query plan; and
outputting query results.

17-18. (Canceled)